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A new species of *Ocalea* from Romania (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

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A b s t r a c t : *Ocalea gyorgyi* nov.sp. (Romania) is described and illustrated. A key to the *Ocalea* species known from Romania is provided.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Ocalea*, Romania, taxonomy, new species, key to species.

Introduction

The genus *Ocalea* ERICHSON 1837 has a Holarctic distribution, with the vast majority of species occurring in the Palaearctic region. A number of species have been described also from South America, Australia, and New Zealand, but first studies indicate that they do not belong to *Ocalea*. According to SMETANA (2004), the genus is represented in the Palaearctic region by nearly 40 species, and four species have been reported from Romania: *O. badia* ERICHSON 1837, *O. picata* (STEPHENS 1832), *O. rivularis* MILLER 1852, and *O. robusta* BERNHAUER 1902.

Owing to the generally pronounced intraspecific variation of external characters on the one hand and mostly rather weakly pronounced interspecific differences in the sexual characters, a reliable identification often proves difficult and the genus is in a state of taxonomic confusion. A revision is currently in progress (TERLUTTER in prep.).

György Makranczy, Budapest, recently made two specimens of an *Ocalea* species from Romania available to us. An examination of these specimens revealed that they represent an undescribed species. Since it is characterised by a remarkably distinctive aedeagus, it is herein described, prior to the completion of a comprehensive revision of the Western Palaearctic representatives of the genus.

Material and methods

The material referred to in this study is deposited in the following public institution and private collection:

HNHM Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (G. Makranczy)
cAss..... private collection V. Assing, Hannover

The morphological studies were carried out using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). For the photographs a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used.

Head length was measured from the anterior margin of the clypeus (without anteclypeus) to the posterior margin of the head, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra.

***Ocalea gyorgyi* nov.sp.** (Figs 1-7)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "Romania, jud. Caraş-Severin, Munţii Almaj, N entry of Cheile Rudăriei, under Moara Roşoaena (watermill), 420 m / debris, leaf litter stuck at branches in stream, flotation [349], 44°51'51"N, 22°05'59"E, 10.X.2007, Gy. Makranczy / Holotypus ♂ *Ocalea gyorgyi* sp.n. det. V. Assing & H. Terlutter 2008" (HNHM). Paratype [damaged]: 1 ♂: same data as holotype (cAss).

Description: Body length 4.8-5.0 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Coloration: body uniformly blackish; legs pitchy-brown; antennae dark-brown, with antennomeres I-III slightly paler.

Head approximately 1.05 times as wide as long; punctuation fine and dense; microsculpture very shallow, almost obsolete; eyes large, somewhat longer than postocular region in dorsal view (Fig. 2). Antennae slender, approximately 1.8 mm long; antennomeres I-III elongate and of subequal length; IV distinctly shorter than III, but almost twice as long as wide; X approximately as long as wide.

Pronotum of holotype 1.12 times as wide as long and 1.18 times as wide as head; posterior angles obtuse, but marked; lateral margins in posterior half weakly sinuate in dorsal view (Fig. 2); pubescence directed cephalad along anterior 5/6-6/7 of midline, caudad along posterior 1/7-1/6 of midline, and laterad in lateral portions of disc; punctuation dense, similar to that of head; microsculpture indistinct.

Elytra approximately 1.1 times as long and 1.5 times as wide as pronotum; posterior margins moderately sinuate near posterior angles (Fig. 2); punctuation fine and dense, more defined than that of pronotum; interstices with fine transverse microsculpture; pubescence on disc directed diagonally postero-laterad. Hind wings fully developed.

Abdomen approximately 0.8 times as wide as elytra, widest at segments V/VI; tergites III-V with rather deep, tergite VI with shallow anterior impression; punctuation fine and rather sparse, somewhat sparser on posterior than on anterior tergites; posterior margin of tergite VII with pronounced palisade fringe; tergites III-VI glossy, with very shallow microsculpture composed of extremely fine transverse striae (visible only at high magnification); tergite VII with slightly more distinct microsculpture composed of long transverse meshes; microsculpture of tergite VIII composed of shorter transverse meshes.

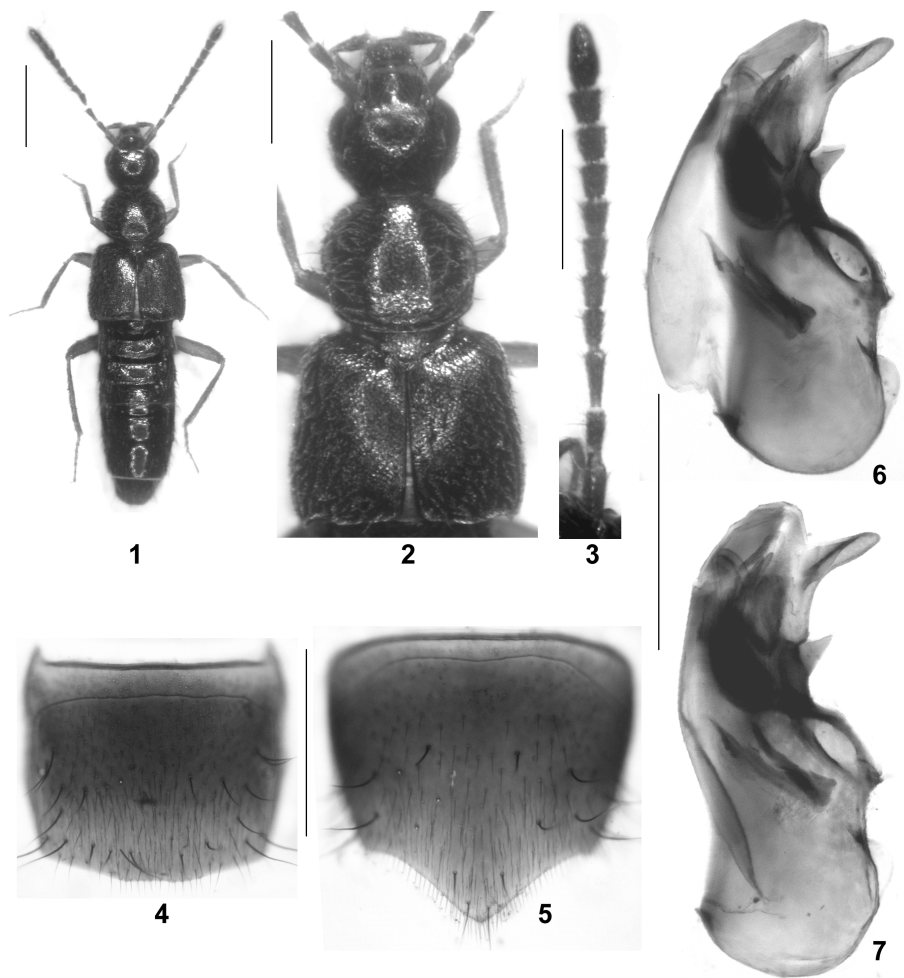
♂: posterior margin of tergite VIII weakly convex, in the middle truncate (Fig. 4); sternite VIII longer than tergite VIII, posterior margin distinctly produced in the middle (Fig. 5); median lobe of aedeagus of highly distinctive morphology, at base of ventral process with a conspicuous pair of acutely triangular processes (Figs 6-7); parameres not distinctive.

♀: unknown.

Etyymology: We dedicate this remarkable species to György Makranczy, Budapest, to whom we owe its discovery.

Comparative notes: Among its European congeners, *O. gyorgyi* is most similar to *O. concolor* KIESENWETTER 1847, whose body, including the legs and antennae, is of similarly dark coloration. The new species is readily distinguished from *O. concolor*, as well as from other congeners particularly by the conspicuous pair of triangular processes at the base of the ventral process, a unique character in the genus.

Distribution and bionomics: The type locality is situated in the Munții Almaj, Caraș-Severin province, southwestern Romania. The specimens were collected from flood debris and leaf litter at a stream at an altitude of 420 m.



Figs 1-7: *Ocalea gyorgyi* nov.sp. (1-3, 7: holotype): (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) antenna; (4) male tergite VIII; (5) male sternite VIII; (6-7) aedeagus in lateral view. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2-7: 0.5 mm.

Key to the *Ocalea* species recorded from Romania

Ocalea concolor is included in the key, although it has not been reported from Romania (SMETANA 2004). However, the species has been recorded from Ukraine, Slovakia, and various Balkan countries, so that its presence in Romania is not unlikely.

- 1 Posterior angles of pronotum rounded, lateral margins convex2
- Posterior angles of pronotum marked or nearly rectangular, margin in front of posterior angles straight or weakly sinuate3
- 2 Body length from anterior margin of labrum to posterior margin of elytra less than 2.2 mm*O. badia* ERICHSON
- Body length from anterior margin of labrum to posterior margin of elytra more than 2.2 mm *O. robusta* BERNHAUER
- 3 Pronotum more than 2/3 the width of elytra.....*O. picata* (STEPHENS)
- Pronotum less than 2/3 the width of elytra4
- 4 Legs yellowish *O. rivularis* MILLER
- Legs brownish5
- 5 Elytral pubescence directed diagonally postero-laterad. Median lobe of aedeagus with pair of triangular processes at the base of the ventral process (Figs 6-7).....*O. gyorgyi* nov.sp.
- Pubescence of elytra directed laterad in posterior 1/6 and diagonally postero-laterad in anterior 5/6. Median lobe of aedeagus without such processes.[*O. concolor* KIESENWETTER]

Zusammenfassung

Ocalea gyorgyi nov.sp. (Rumänien) wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Eine vereinfachte Bestimmungstabelle der aus Rumänien bekannten Arten wird erstellt.

Reference

SMETANA A. (2004): Staphylinidae, subfamily Aleocharinae, pp. 353-494. — In: LÖBL I. & A. SMETANA (eds), Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. II. Hydrophiloidea – Histeroidea – Staphylinoidea. Stenstrup, Apollo Books: 942 pp.

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